

Lesson 17

How to Teach Souls by Rightly Dividing the Word

Introduction:

The goal of this lesson is to better equip us in teaching Salvation to a specific group of people who have been a challenge to our doctrine: They believe in Jesus and in the Bible but incorrectly believe in the baptism by the titles, and deny the need to speak in tongues.

Effective teaching requires **preparation**. And this process involves **STUDYING** in order **to understand and to remember** the biblical principles and the supporting scriptural references. **Memorizing** the key thoughts and scriptural references would be a big help. And the more you study and teach it, the more the Word will become hidden in your heart and it will flow more fluently!

This Bible Study was designed to take approximately an hour to teach (excluding additional time for questions and answers).

Set the Foundation of Biblical Principles/Guidelines

Whenever we teach the doctrine of salvation, it's very important for us to have a foundation of biblical guidelines that we present at the beginning of our Bible Study. These principles will serve two purposes - to **SUPPORT** our teaching and to **REFUTE** their false doctrine. It becomes more challenging for them to express their contrasting views after we have set this foundation. For this particular Bible study, I have chosen to use mainly three biblical principles but I encourage you to study and review the other principles that were taught in Lesson 7.

THREE BIBLICAL GUIDELINES:

1. **We need to always have more than one verse in the Bible to support our teaching/doctrine.**

Matthew 18:16 *But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.*

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2 Corinthians 13:1

This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

2. There should not be any verses that would contradict our teaching/doctrine or interpretation of scripture.

2 Timothy 3:16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

Since all scripture is relevant and profitable for teaching doctrine, we cannot omit any verse in the Bible. This also means that ALL scripture is EQUAL in defining doctrine. We can then also conclude that the Word of God cannot contradict itself, that if there is any “specific interpretation” of a verse that contradicts an established biblical doctrine/Truth, then that “specific interpretation” must be false and incorrect.

In summary, our interpretation of Truth is correct WHEN verses of the same topic are in harmony, agreeing with each other. But **if our understanding or interpretation of certain verses contradict OTHER verses on the same subject then our understanding and interpretation is NOT ACCURATE.**

- When all verses relative to a specific subject harmonize together = **Truth / true doctrine**
- When they don't harmonize = **FALSE doctrine!**

By applying both principles (1 and 2) that are mutually dependent = **ALL verses on the same subject must harmonize together in portraying a specific doctrine, without any other verses contradicting it.**

3. We must rightly divide the Word of God in order to acquire the correct interpretation of scripture.

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- Basically, what this means is that **we need to make sure that we are getting our supporting verse from the right book or division of the Bible!**

FOUR DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

Gospels
Book of Acts
Epistles
Revelation

How to Rightly Divide the Word of God:

1. Determine **WHEN** the New Testament Plan of Salvation was in effect in each division.
 - The **Gospels** is not when the New Testament Plan of Salvation was in effect since the Testator was still alive (Heb. 9:17). It was a **transition** from the OT to the NT. For the OT laws were no longer in effect during this time (Jesus forgave sins without fulfilling the law) and neither was the promise of the NT (or the infilling of the Holy Spirit in John 7:37-39) available as of yet.
2. Determine **WHO** the book/division directly applies to.
 - Is the purpose of the book to teach the UNSAVED about Salvation? Or is it to instruct the SAVED or the born-again Church member on how he can continue to grow in His walk with God?

Doctrine of Salvation:

- **REPENTANCE**
- **WATER BAPTISM in Jesus' Name**
- **Receiving the Gift of the HOLY GHOST**, with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues.

Main Scriptural Reference: Acts 2:38

BACKGROUND (Acts 2:5-37): On the Day of Pentecost, Peter was preaching to the Jews who witnessed and questioned 120 believers of Jesus Christ who were speaking in tongues after their infilling of the Holy Ghost. Peter explained to them that they just witnessed the promise of the Holy Spirit that the prophets declared. And when Peter had told them that they had crucified the resurrected Messiah, Whose Spirit they now witness, they were convicted in their hearts and asked him what they should do. And this was Peter's response to them:

Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

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**Providing them with a concise background of your scriptural reference before you read it would help to give them more understanding of the verses. This is crucial with the Book of Acts since most "Christians" are not very familiar with it. As you study to become familiar with the events in the Book of Acts, use your own words to tell the story. Do not read it.*

Water Baptism in Jesus Name: (OTHER BIBLE REFERENCES to Support Biblical Principles 1 and 2)

1. Samaritans - Acts 8:16

BACKGROUND (Acts 8:5-15):

Philip evangelized to the people of Samaria and they were baptized but they have not yet received the Holy Ghost. Then the Lord directed Philip to go to Ethiopia. The Apostles in Jerusalem heard about the Samaritans receiving the gospel and they sent Peter & John to minister to them so that they can be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:16

*(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**)*

2. Cornelius – Acts 10:48 (the first Gentile to be saved)

BACKGROUND (Acts 10:1-47):

Cornelius was a God-fearing and religious man who caught God’s attention. The Lord used an angel to instruct Cornelius on what he needed to do that another man was supposed to tell him. The Lord gave Peter His instructions through a vision and then he heard three men knocking at his gate, who were messengers of Cornelius. So Peter was instructed by the Lord to go to Cornelius’ house to speak to him about salvation. And while he was yet speaking, the Spirit of God fell upon them and then this is what Peter commanded them:

Acts 10:48

*And he **commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.** Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*

3. Ephesians – Acts 19:4-5

BACKGROUND (Acts 19:1-3):

Paul was in Ephesus and found some believers whom he asked how they were baptized. They told him that they were baptized unto John’s baptism. And these verses record Paul’s response to them and their response back to Paul:

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Aside from being able to give them the scriptural background in your own words, it is important to **MEMORIZE the chapter and the subject** of each reference.

The verses in this study are put in chronological to make it easier to remember the chapters. For Water Baptism, we use Acts 2,8,10 and 19.

What helps me to remember the chapter for **Samaritans** is how the number “8” resembles the letter “S” which stands for Samaritans.

What helps me to remember the chapter for **Cornelius** is when I rate him as a “10” being the first Gentile to be saved! 😊

What helps me to remember the chapter for **Ephesians** is when I see the letter **p** as an inverted “9.” And since “p” is the second letter of that word, it would make sense to place number “1” before “9,” and so it become chapter “19.”

Acts 19:4–5

*⁴Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ⁵When they heard this, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.***

- So the **Ephesians** were the first recorded believers to be **RE-Baptized**.

Infilling of the Holy Ghost with the Evidence/Sign of Speaking in Other Tongues: (OTHER BIBLE REFERENCES to Support Biblical Principles 1 and 2)

1. Jews on the Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:4

BACKGROUND (Acts 1 – 2:1-3):

The Lord appeared to His disciples after His resurrection and before He ascended and gave them final instructions for them to wait for the promise of the Holy Ghost. And so they prayed until God filled them all with His Spirit.

Acts 2:4 *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

2. Cornelius and his Household – Acts 10:44-48

These verses tell us an interesting account on what happened while Peter was still preaching God's message to Cornelius:

Acts 10:44–48 ⁴⁴ *While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell on all them** which heard the word. ⁴⁵ And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. ⁴⁶ **For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.***

3. Ephesians – Acts 19:6 (those who were re-baptized)

Acts 19:6 *And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.***

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It is easy to remember the CHAPTERS used for the Holy Ghost references since they are the same ones used for Water Baptism, excluding Chapter 8 of the Samaritans.

Thus, the **Holy Ghost** reference chapters are Acts 2, 10 and 19.

What about Matthew 28:19?

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing** them in the **name** of the **Father**, and of the **Son**, and of the **Holy Ghost**:

I believe that this was indeed a commandment from the Lord Jesus Christ for the disciples to follow regarding baptism.

TWO WAYS that this verse has been interpreted and practiced:

(1) By baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost

- Literally reciting this verse during baptism.
(confirm that this is what they believe in)

(2) By Baptizing in the Name of Jesus

- Reciting the revealed name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
(confirm that this is what we believe in)

Biblical Analysis:

- **ASK:** Do you have another biblical reference to support your belief?
- The **problem** with the first interpretation is that **you can't find any OTHER verse in the Bible that SUPPORTS it.**
- Furthermore, **several verses in the Bible CONTRADICT** that interpretation (**Acts 2, 8, 10 and 19**).
- By following the biblical principles that define how a doctrine is correct or incorrect, I must conclude that baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost cannot be the correct way to be baptized.
- For the second interpretation, I have provided **four biblical references** that clearly state water baptism in the Name of JESUS.
- And you will not find any other verse in the Bible that shows water baptism in any other name.
- By following the authority of the Word of God, I must conclude that water baptism in the Name of Jesus is the only correct way to be baptized.

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More than likely, this verse will be brought up at the start of your Bible Study. But it is important for you to **FIRST** set the foundation of those three biblical principles and all the listed references before you discuss Matthew 28:19.

About the NAME in Matthew 28:19

- Can we agree that the **NAME** of the Son is JESUS?

Matt. 1:21.

²¹ *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

- And since we know that the name of the Son is Jesus, wouldn't that prove that the **NAME** of the Son **can't be "Son?"**
- Wouldn't it make more sense if it said, *in the name of the Father, of Jesus and of the Holy Ghost?*
- But then why would we use "**Father**" and "**Holy Ghost**" as a **NAME**?
- Grammatically, those terms are used as **titles** and not as actual names.
- And did you know that the **Bible tells us that the Father and the Holy Ghost both have a NAME?!**

John 5:43 *I am come in my **Father's name**, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.*

- According to this verse, what's the name of the **Father**?

John 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the **Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in **my name**, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

- According to this verse, what's name of the **Holy Ghost**?

Why Is It Only ONE Name?

- Matthew 28:19 shows the "name" as being **SINGULAR**
- The Bible teaches us that our **God is only ONE Person** although He can represent Himself in different forms or titles, such as a Father, Son and Spirit.
- Then **Ephesians 3:14-15** tells us that JESUS is a **Family Name**, which is the Family Name of Heaven and Earth!

Ephesians 3:14-15 ¹⁴ *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our **Lord Jesus Christ**,* ¹⁵ *Of whom the **whole family in heaven and earth is named,***

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Memorize Key Verses:

Matthew 1:21 - Son

John 5:43 - Father

John 14:26 - Holy Ghost

Ephesians 3:14-15 -

Our Family Name

Why Did We Choose the BOOK OF ACTS?

- The third listed biblical principle states that we need to **RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD OF GOD** (2 Timothy 2:15) and so our choice of book/division for scriptural references must support that principle.
- The **Book of Acts is the only New Testament book with an actual record of SINNERS BEING SAVED.** It is the actual fulfilment of the promise of the New Testament, as sinners were receiving the promise of the Holy Ghost.
- The **Book of Acts** also reveals to us **how the disciples obeyed the Lord's commandments** to them.
- Matthew 28 was the last book of Matthew which records the Lord's last instructions to the disciples before He ascended into Heaven:

Matthew 28:19–20

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

- Verse 19 ends in a colon which means that verse 20 continues the thought of verse 19. **What is verse 20 telling us?** That the disciples had a big responsibility to teach and do whatever the Lord Jesus taught and commanded them to do (including the command to baptize).
- Thus, the **Book of Acts**, which is a record of events that happened AFTER the Lord's ascension – should tell us **how the disciples obeyed baptism** and all the other things that the Lord commanded them to do.
- In essence, the Book of Acts will reveal to us **HOW the Church was started by the Apostles** – what they preached, how they baptized souls and how they prayed for souls to receive the Holy Ghost. **And no other book in the Bible records that!** The GOSPELS and the EPISTLES do not cover that. And so, if we need to look for the plan of Salvation that we need to obey – **we need to look for it in the Book of Acts!**

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Here's another verse that supports the importance of knowing the Book of ACTS since it records the works and teachings of the APOSTLES:

Ephesians 2:19–20

¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰ And are **built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;**

What about the EPISTLES?

- These books talk about Salvation too BUT they won't teach us "how to be saved" because the letters were addressed to Churches whose members were already saved (as recorded in the book of Acts).
- **These were letters not written to SINNERS but to the Church.** Just look at the address of each letter (to whom the letter is to). At the beginning of each epistle, you will read that it is written to SAVED people.
- **Not one Epistle was written to SINNERS!**
- **Every Epistle was written to the Church, people who were already saved with the born-again experience.**
- **The PURPOSE of the Epistles was to EXPLAIN to the saved people what the plan of salvation meant, or its SIGNIFICANCE.**
- The EPISTLES, starting with Romans 1:1, **were all the teachings and the instructions of the Apostles to the SAVED people - about what they "did" to be saved, and what that "meant."** Thus, the Epistles do NOT contain THE ACTUAL PLAN ITSELF AS PREACHED BY THE APOSTLES in the Book of Acts.
- **So if you're looking for the plan of Salvation** (on how to be saved), you don't look for it in the Epistles but in the book of Acts!

EXAMPLES of FALSE DOCTRINE taken from the EPISTLES:

- **Just call on the Lord and you will be saved.**

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- **Just believe in the Lord and you will be saved.**

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

- **Just accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and you will be saved.**

This is a good step towards salvation but it does not cover any of the essential steps necessary for salvation. And there is no biblical reference for this particular statement.

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*These **examples** are provided for your **reference** to study, in case they mention it.

Note that all these three doctrinal statements CONTRADICT the actions and teachings of the Apostles in the Book of Acts. Therefore, they cannot be correct in doctrine.

Understanding the true purpose of the Epistles (to disciple the SAVED Church body and not to convert the UNSAVED) will provide more revelation on these "salvation" references.

What about 1 Cor. 12:30?

1 Corinthians 12:30

Have all the gifts of healing? **do all speak with tongues?**
do all interpret?

They claim that this verse proves that speaking in tongues is not required for us to be saved, or that the practice of speaking in tongues is optional.

- ASK: Do you have another verse or two to support your/this interpretation?
- We have provided several verses in the Book of Acts that prove otherwise:
 - The Lord Jesus commanded the disciples to wait for the promise of the Holy Ghost and they all received it on the Day of Pentecost as they all spoke in tongues.
 - Peter preached to the crowd of Jews who witnessed them speaking in tongues and told them that the promise of the Holy Ghost is for them too.
 - When the believers were filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost, they all spoke in tongues (Acts 2, 10, 19).

1 Cor. 12:30 must not be referring to the SAME type of speaking in tongues that is recorded in the Book of Acts since the Word of God cannot contradict itself and we cannot omit any verse from the Bible because all scripture is equal in defining doctrine.

So if the Book of Acts proves to us that speaking in other tongues was the sign of receiving the Holy Ghost (also see Mark 16:17) AND that we all need to receive the Holy Ghost to be born-again, saved, resurrected, or to enter into His kingdom (Acts 2:38, John 3: 5, 8, Romans 8:9-11) THEN what is **1 Cor. 12:30** really referring to?

1 Cor. 12:30 is referring to **one of the Nine Gifts of the Spirit** which is **different** from **Speaking in Other Tongues** when one receives (or is filled with) His Spirit.

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Additional references on the need to receive the Holy Ghost:

John 3:5, 8

⁵Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

⁸The wind bloweth where it listeth, and **thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.**

Romans 8:9–11

⁹But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. **Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.** ¹⁰And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹**But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.**

How the Gift of Tongues (1 Cor. 12) is DIFFERENT from Speaking in Other Tongues (Book of Acts):

First of all, it is important for us to acknowledge that these two types of tongues are referenced from **two separate divisions** of the New Testament. And as you read the introduction of the Book of Acts, and the address of every epistle, you will see that these two divisions are not focused on the same group of people.

The Book of Acts and the Book of Corinthians focus on **TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE:**

- The **Book of Acts** is a recording of the history of the Church, how **sinners** were saved.
- **1 Corinthians 12** is an epistle or a letter that was written by the Apostle Paul to the Church of Corinth. This also means that the Church members of Corinth have already been filled with the Holy Ghost.
 - **Therefore, the focus, teaching or application of TONGUES would be different for these two different groups: the Church members and the unsaved souls.**

These two types of tongues are different since they serve **TWO DIFFERENT PURPOSES:**

- 1 Corinthians 12 is a letter written to the Church of Corinth that teaches about the NINE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT and the **Gift of Tongues** (or *Divers Kinds of Tongues* or *Unknown Tongue* in KJV) is one of the nine gifts. And the purpose of these gifts is to **EDIFY the Church** (1 Cor. 14:12).
- The purpose of Speaking in Other Tongues as one prays since he is filled with the Spirit, is to **EDIFY ourselves**. Jude 20: *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,*
- As the new converts spoke in tongues in the Book of Acts, it was never referred to as a gift to edify a group/others but it was always presented as a “personal” experience that they needed to have for themselves.

These two types of tongues are different because they **DO NOT OPERATE THE SAME WAY**:

The *Gift of Tongues* are governed by **RULES** while *Speaking in Other Tongues* do not need any rules:

Rules for the Gift of Tongues = 1 Cor. 14:27 – 28

- When the *gift of tongues* is in operation, **there can be no more than three separate messages in tongues.**
- After the third message in tongues, they need to be silent and wait for the **interpretation of tongues.**
.....
- When the believer, who is filled with the Holy Ghost speaks in tongues (in private or public), **there is no limitation to how many times he can speak in tongues.** In fact, Paul encourages us to pray in tongues a lot (1 Cor. 14:18).
- When we pray in tongues at Church, we don't need to take turns but we can all pray together at the same time, to worship God or to edify ourselves.
- **There is no interpretation required after we speak in other tongues,** as it is a form of our personal prayer to God. When we pray in the Spirit to edify ourselves, God does not require for us to understand what the Spirit is praying through us, although we may feel a witness in our spirit.
- You will not find any example of an interpretation required in Acts 2,10, 19, after these souls spoke in tongues when they were filled with the Holy Ghost.

These two types of tongues are different in regard to **SALVATION**:

- In 1 Cor. 12:30, Paul was implying that not everyone is used in the same gift, that some may have the gift of healing or the gift of tongues and others may not. And that's acceptable to God because the possession of a particular **spiritual gift** is **NOT a salvation issue.**
- However, the **infilling of the Holy Ghost** is a **requirement for our salvation** and **speaking in tongues is the initial and tangible sign** that proves that one has been filled with the Spirit of God, as we read in the Book of Acts.

Speaking in Tongues is the SIGN that we all need to have

The Holy Ghost is our **SOURCE** of salvation and power and speaking in tongues is the tangible **SIGN** that we have the Holy Ghost.

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Mark 16:17

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

We **pray in tongues in order for the Spirit to pray through us**, whether it be for our own edification or to intercede for other souls as the Spirit leads us.

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

We pray in the *gift of tongues* to edify the Church whenever the Spirit leads us to do so. But before we can be used in this gift (or in any other gift of the spirit), we first need to be filled by the Holy Ghost so that the Source of power can flow through us.

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